

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 458**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST DECEMBER, 2015/AGRAHAYANA 10, 1937 (SAKA)

BOREWELL RELATED CASES

458. SHRI G. HARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that borewells are continuing to be death traps in the country;**
- (b) the total number of cases related to borewells reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to make it mandatory to close down the borewells which are not in use or keep them properly blocked; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (b): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has started collecting data on cases reported and persons injured & died due to fall into bore well since 2014. Hence no comparison can be made on increase/decrease in deaths due to fall in bore well. A total of 50 Persons died due to fall into bore well in the country during 2014. State/UT wise cases reported and persons died due to fall in bore well during 2014 is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c) to (d): The Government is aware of occurrence of such incidents of small children falling into open bore wells. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all the States & UTs through Orders dated 11th February, 2010 and 6th August, 2010, to take preventive actions on cases of children falling in bore wells as per Annexure-II.

The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and West Bengal have issued instructions to the concerned agencies to adopt safety measures such as the closure of abandoned wells after filling and also making of provision to cap them. Further, the landowners before taking up any construction works must inform the concerned authorities. Further, the Ministry of Water Resources had taken steps for preventing such fatal accidents; look into the legal and statutory measures available, action required for preventing such accidents and to suggest other administrative and technical measures for prevention of such accidents.

Further, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens.

Number of Cases, Persons Injured& Died by Fall into Bore Well during 2014

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Cases	Falls(into Borewell)								
			No. of Persons Injured				No. of Persons Died				
			Male	Female	Trans-gender	Total	Male	Female	Trans-gender	Total	
	STATES										
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	ASSAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	BIHAR	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
5	CHHATTISGARH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	GOA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	GUJARAT	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
8	HARYANA	7	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	7
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	JHARKHAND	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
12	KARNATAKA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	KERALA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	MADHYA PRADESH	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
15	MAHARASHTRA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
16	MANIPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	MEGHALAYA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	MIZORAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	NAGALAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	ODISHA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	PUNJAB	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
22	RAJASTHAN	9	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	9
23	SIKKIM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	TAMIL NADU	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	8
25	TELANGANA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	TRIPURA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	UTTAR PRADESH	14	1	0	0	0	1	13	1	0	14
28	UTTARAKHAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	WEST BENGAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL (STATES)	47	1	0	0	0	1	41	8	0	49
	UNIONTERRITORIES										
30	A & NISLANDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	CHANDIGARH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	D & N HAVELI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	DELHI (UT)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
35	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	PUDUCHERRY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL (UTs)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	48	1	0	0	0	1	42	8	0	50

Safety measures/guidelines as given in the Order dated 11.02.2010 of Hon'ble Supreme Court are to be observed by all the States:-

- (i) "The owner of the land/premises, before taking any steps for construction bore well/tube well must inform in writing at least 15 days in advance to the concerned authorities in the area, i.e., District Collector/District Magistrate/Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat/ Concerned officers of the Department of Ground Water/ Public Health/Municipal Corporation, as the case may be, about the construction of bore well/tube well.**
- (ii) Registration of all the drilling agencies, viz., Govt./Semi Govt./ Private etc. should be mandatory with the district administration.**
- (iii) Erection of signboard at the time of construction near the well with the following details:-**
 - (a) Complete address of the drilling agency at the time of construction/rehabilitation of well.**
 - (b) Complete address of the user agency/owner of the well.**
- (iv) Erection of barbed wire fencing or any other suitable barrier around the well during construction.**
- (v) Construction of cement/concrete platform measuring 0.50x0.50x0.60 meter (0.30 meter above ground level and 0.30 meter below ground level) around the well casing.**
- (vi) Capping of well assembly by welding steel plate or by providing a strong cap to be fixed to the casing pipe with bolts and nuts.**
- (vii) In case of pump repair, the tube well should not be left uncovered.**
- (viii) Filling of mud pits and channels after completion of works.**
- (ix) Filling up abandoned borewells by clay/sand/boulders/pebbles/drill cuttings etc. from bottom to ground level.**

- (x) On completion of the drilling operations at a particular location, the ground conditions are to be restored as before the start of drilling.**
- (xi) District Collector should be empowered to verify that the above guidelines are being followed and proper monitoring check about the status of boreholes/tubewells are being taken care through the concerned State/Central Government agencies.**
- (xii) District/Block/Village wise status of bore wells/tubewells drilled viz. No. of wells in use, No. of abandoned bore wells/tube wells found open, No. of abandoned borewells/tube wells properly filled up to ground level and balance number of abandoned borewells/tubewells to be filled up to ground level is to be maintained at District Level. In rural areas, the monitoring of the above is to be done through village Sarpanch and the Executive from the Agriculture Department.**
- (xiii) If a borewell/tubewell is 'Abandoned' at any stage, a certificate from the concerned department of Ground Water/Public health/Municipal Corporation/Private contractor etc. must be obtained by the aforesaid agencies that the 'Abandoned' borewell/tubewell is properly filled upto the ground level. Random inspection of the abandoned wells is also to be done by the Executive of the concern agency/department. Information on all such data on the above are to be maintained in the District Collector/Block Development Office of the State.**
